

# Delight and the Destruction of Lack

Today, marks a unique calendar date, forms a palindrome — written the same both backward and forward.

It is also the 33 day of the year. 333 days remain.

Unusually, the date rendered as it normally is in the United States with m/d/y — 02/02/2020. Is also a palindrome in Europe with d/m/y or in Asia with y/m/d

So wherever you are, Today is a very special day, and extremely rare:

- 909 years ago, on November 11, 1111.
- 101 years from now – December 12, 2121.
- 909 years after that March 3, 3030.
- 1,010 years later April 4, 4040

It is also **Super Bowl Sunday** as well as **Groundhog Day**.

**This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice (jump) and be glad (cheer) in it!** [slide 1]

## I. God Rejoice in Our Freedom

### A. He Delights in Your Success — Dances When You are Set Free

Zeph 3:17 The LORD your God is **in your midst**, [slide 2]  
a **mighty** one who will **save**;  
he will **rejoice**<sup>1</sup> over you with gladness; (happy song)  
he will **quiet\* you by his love**; \***renew**  
he will **exult**<sup>2</sup> over you with loud singing. (festival)

### B. The Blessing Potential of a Renewed Mind

He **renews** our MINDS with his AFFECTION (kiss of love)!

---

<sup>1</sup> Heb. SUS - שׂוֹשׁ to rejoice, to be glad (prop. to leap, to spring.)

<sup>2</sup> Heb. GIYL - prop. a circle dance, to leap for joy

Rom 12.2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal<sup>3</sup> of your mind<sup>4</sup>**, that **by testing** you may discern what is the will of God, what is good & acceptable & perfect.

## C. Divine Affections Develop a Prosperous Soul

Ps 1:1 **Blessed** is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; (degrees of departure - counsel, way, seat) [slide 3]

2 but his **delight** is in the **law of the LORD**, and on his **law** he **meditates** day and night. (**torah** - direction, instruction, law [like gravity – **attraction** proportional to mass, inversely to distance])

3 He **is** like a tree (a complex living system that joins earth and sky) planted by streams of water that yields its **fruit** (attractive, nutritious, and bearing seed) **in its season**, and its **leaf** does not **with-er**. In **all that he does**, he **prosper**s.

3 John 2 NAS Beloved, I pray that **in all respects** you may **prosper** and be in good health, just as **your soul prospers**. [slide 4]

Prosper — Go in a good way. It's a stewardship.

It's a **wholesome way of thinking, feeling, deciding** about life, health, money, ... It bears the IMAGE of our Father!

## D. We are invited to collaborate with our Father

**Righteousness is RELATIONSHIP - Father makes us SONS**

The **Essence of Sin is Separation** from our Father's goodness!

**The LORD is my Shepherd; I shall not want!**

**He invites us to partner, to participate with Him regarding the future of your life, your family, and the world you live in.**

---

<sup>3</sup> anakainosis— return to the new, superior, unheard of

<sup>4</sup> nous - the organ of perception, sometimes translated "heart"

**My Complaint – “Just enough... where is the More than Enough?)**  
*If we could instruct the future how to treat us, how we would want to live, what we would hope for our children, would we do it?*

## II. 7 First Fruits Principles – (**Tithe** after the Harvest)

1. (Given at the Beginning) – Firstfruits **sanctify** our whole life and all we love. [slide 5]

Rom 11:16 NIV If the part of the dough offered as **firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy**; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

**Holy** - outside the natural, separate from the ordinary, pure

The Gospel — Power of God for salvation for everyone who believes

For in it, the righteousness of God is revealed.

2. It's a **Pattern not Law** - Honor the Lord with the First and the Best — and He honors us [slide 6]

Heb 11:4 Abel **faith** → a voice

Acts 10:4 Cornelius

3. Generosity Indicates **Grace and Love** at Work [slide 7]

2 Cor 8:7 NIV But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — **see that you also excel in this grace of giving.**

**Grace flows from Joy**

8 I am **not commanding** you, but I want to **test the sincerity of your love** by comparing it with the earnestness of others.

**God isn't after our money, he's after our hearts.** Giving will **transform** our hearts.

Matt. 6:21 For **where** your **treasure** is, there your **heart** will be also.

4. We Give **According to What We Have**. We give part of ourselves— *our offerings take us beyond our present circumstances*. **FEAR NOT!** [slide 8]

2 Cor 8:12 NIV For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to **what one has**, not according to **what he does not have**.

★ **Elijah & the Widow** 1 Kgs 17:12 ... I do not have bread

1Kings 17:8 Then the **word of the LORD** came to him, 9 “Arise, go to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, *I have commanded a widow there to feed you.*”

10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a **widow** was there **gathering sticks**. And he called to her and said, “*Bring me a little water* in a vessel, that I may drink.” 11 And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “**Bring me a morsel of bread** in your hand.”

12 And she said, “As the LORD your God lives, **I have nothing baked**, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. And now I am gathering a couple of sticks that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may **eat it and die.**”

We may think we have nothing, but we actually do. Our **last** can be a **new FIRST**

13 And Elijah said to her, “**Do not fear**; go and do as you have said. But first make me a **little\* cake of it** and bring it to me, and **afterward#** make something for yourself and your son. [slide 9]

*\*micro (LXX) #after incarnating the prophetic WORD*

14 For **thus says the LORD**, the God of Israel, ‘The jar of flour shall not be **spent,\*** and the jug of **oil** shall not be **empty,# until** the day that the LORD sends rain upon the earth.’”

*\* reach its full end # lack (Ps 23.1). [slide 10]*

15 And she went and did as Elijah said. And **she** and **he** and **her household** ate for many days. 16 The jar of flour was not **spent**,\* neither did the jug of oil become **empty**, ≠ according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah. [slide 11]

Sometimes we aren't aware of the capacity to INCREASE

## Jesus & the Widow

Mark 12:41 And he sat down opposite the treasury and **watched** .... Many rich people put in large sums. 42 And a **poor widow** ...

## 5. In Giving We Plant **Seeds of Blessing**. [slide 12]

2 Cor 9:6 The point is this: **whoever sows** sparingly will also **reap** sparingly, and **whoever sows** bountifully **will also reap** bountifully. [slide 13]

**The seed we sow roots our heart in the soil of God's love—**

**SEED** - carrying all the **instructions needed for increase**. A seed **alive** is packed with limitless potential.

Seeds are God's **blueprint for the future**. Apple seed. [slide 14]

a. **Our children**. The **Creator Himself became a seed** and **broke** the slavery of death and **released** the power of an endless life! Gen. 3:15

b. **Our Words**, containing a potential future. **Every word contains in a future reality in an immature form: CO CREATING**

Mark 4:11 ... "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God... 14 The sower sows the word. ...

c. **Our Offerings** Each contains a future reality in an immature form.

2 Cor 9:7 Each one must **give** as he has **decided in his heart**, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **For the Joy!**

## 6. The Harvest is **PROPORTIONAL**. [slide 15]

Luke 6:38 NKJ Give, and it will be given to you:... good...pressed, shaken, running over... put into your lap. For with the **same measure** that you use, it will be **measured back** to you."

If you give, you will **always get back more**.

This is the **BENEFIT** of giving, not the **MOTIVE**.

## 7. Our Giving **Releases God's Creative Ability** [slide 16]

2 Cor 9:8 NKJ And **God is \*able\*** to make **all grace abound** toward you, that you, **always** having **all** sufficiency in **all** things, may have an abundance **for every good work**.

**TESTIMONY** — 1977 starving ... increased our giving...change began to overtake us. 1984 house w/o debt...

**Mustard Seed** has all the instructions. A **sequoia** seed...

SOWING **gives God an opportunity** to work through us!

Partner with God - He's rejoicing over you and will renew you with His affection — for a **PURPOSE**

**STUCK? FRUSTRATED? Release God to Work!**

## IV. 4 Keys to First Fruits:

1. **Cyclical** —Annual basis
2. **In Faith** – a stretch to that which is beyond our ability.
3. **Sacrificial** – what moves you, often moves God.  
2 Sam 24:24 ...I will not offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God that cost me nothing."
4. **Focused** — prioritize the areas you are sowing into for breakthrough.
  - a. Reflects the godly passions of your heart
  - b. Based on God's Word.

- c. **Pray, Believe, Decree, Stand. You will reap if you don't faint. You have seed in the ground!**
- d. **This is a time to sow, consecrating the dreams for our lives; the promises of God we treasure in our hearts.**

## V. Instructions for First Fruits Offering

1. **Pray for God's Direction (desire discipline delight) Pray for hearing hearts.**
2. **Have a Target, or ask what Gates are held by the enemy?**
3. **Set an amount, or ask for one.**
4. **Write a check, use Push Pay, Credit Card or make a pledge (next two months). No Fear — Refunds for 2 weeks!**
5. **Bring it on First Fruits Sunday**

**Phil 4:19 NKJ** And my God shall supply all your need **according to His riches** in glory by Christ Jesus.

There are **NO LIMITS** on the effects of a **SMALL CHANGE** in our thinking and behavior.

**Jar not spent (continuous provision); Jug not empty (no lack)**

**Gen 22:16 NKJ** and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, **because you have done this thing**, and have not withheld ..., your only son—

17  **blessing... bless you, multiplying... multiply;** your descendants ...stars... sand; and ... **possess the gate** of their enemies.

18 **In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because **you** have **obeyed** My **voice**."